

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 25 are pending, with Claims 1, 3, 5, and 22 through 25 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 22 through 25 have been amended.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the gracious courtesies extended in granting and conducting, on May 31, 2006, a personal interview with Applicant's representative.

At the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,812,747 (Kayano, et al.), or under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kayano, et al. in view of one or more of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,516,157 B1 (Maruta, et al.), 5,933,984 (Maniwa), and 6,226,095 B1 (Fukuta), all of which are respectfully traversed.

Also discussed at the interview was the assertion at page 2 of the Official Action that the claimed "means for displaying to a user (operator) of the image forming apparatus information about the image data stored in the remote image forming apparatus... reads on display means (26 and column 3, lines 38-54) for allowing an operator using a data selector (24), to select image data sent from a remote image forming apparatus (column 4, lines 20-51)), and for prompting the user to select image data for printing (column 4, lines 20-51)", referring to Kayano, et al., which is also respectfully traversed as being without support.

Still further, also discussed at the interview were the amendments presented herein, namely that Claims 1, 3, 5, and 22 through 25 variously recite, inter alia, (a) that the request is made by the user of the first image-forming apparatus via a user interface that displays

to the user information about the image data stored in the another image-forming apparatus, the information being obtained from the another image forming apparatus in response to use by the user of the user interface, as recited in Claims 1, 3, 22, and 23, or (b) displaying, to a user of the image-forming apparatus, information about the image data stored in the remote image-forming apparatus, the information being obtained from the remote image-forming apparatus in response to use by the user of a user interface, and for prompting the user of the image-forming apparatus to select image data stored in the remote image-forming apparatus for printing by the image-forming apparatus, as recited in Claims 5, 24, and 25.

However, as discussed at the interview, Applicant respectfully submits that Kayano, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 3, 5, and 22 through 25. In this regard, as discussed at the interview, Applicant respectfully submits that the aforementioned cited portions of Kayano, et al. are silent as to such features.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in Kayano, et al., Maruta, et al., Maniwa, and Fukuta that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to attempt to modify Kayano, et al., assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, so as to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

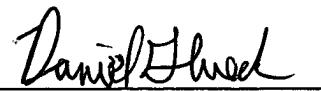
The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a

Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Glueck
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,838

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
DSG/lip

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